

## **Background**

At its meeting in October 2008, the Board approved a set of “core” system indicators for the Sierra Nevada (those that have a direct relationship with the SNC mission) with the understanding that the SNC would take the lead on developing them, in consultation with key stakeholders and partners. The [staff report](#) provided at that meeting describes how the SNC will use the system indicators as well as other project information. The nineteen indicators approved by the Board are:

- Human Population
- Median Income
- Change in Habitat—Wildlife Habitat Relationship
- Air Quality (PM 10,PM 2.5)
- Public/Private Lands Forest Health
- Carbon Storage and Net Annual Sequestration on forests
- Acres Treated for Fuels Reduction by Risk Category
- Demographics of Residents
- Employment and Income by Sector
- Acres of Working Landscapes
- Air Quality (Ozone)
- Water Quality—Impaired Water Bodies
- MWH for Energy Produced by Renewable and Distributed Energy Sources
- Gross Domestic Product
- Access to High Speed Internet
- Travel and Tourism Spending
- Acres of Land Conserved
- Quantity and Value of Water Exports
- Percent Change in Temperature, Precipitation and Snow Pack

The Board also directed staff to proceed with exploring interest in and feasibility of implementing a “comprehensive” set of system indicators for the Region (primarily those that are not directly related to the SNC mission), which would require resources well beyond the means of the SNC.

## **Current Status**

Awarding of the contract for development of the Core System Indicators and further exploration of the Comprehensive System Indicators was delayed by the Executive Order issued in May of 2009, which barred state agencies from entering into any new contracts for the remainder of the 2008-09 fiscal year and put new requirements on contracts entered into in the current fiscal year.

The contract was awarded to Collaborative Economics, a company based out of Mountain View, which has been successful with other large indicator efforts. An advisory committee was established for the project with representatives from Regional stakeholder groups, other government entities, and foundations. The Advisory Committee is scheduled to have its first meeting on November 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff will update the Board on key developments from that meeting at the December Board meeting.

**Next Steps**

Completion of a draft system indicators report is expected in May 2010, with Board discussion anticipated for the June Board meeting. The report will include data collected for each indicator and an analysis of what the data tell us about how the Sierra Nevada Region is faring with regard to issues that are important to the SNC's mission. It will also discuss the prospects for developing a more comprehensive system indicators program for the Region.

**Recommendation**

**No action is needed from the Board at this time. However, staff welcomes any thoughts or suggestions from the Board related to the System Indicator project.**